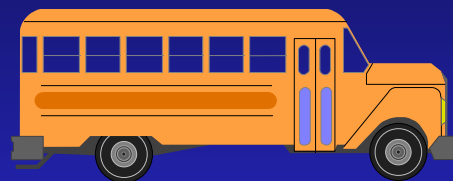# New Jersey National Public Health Performance Standards Program Implementation
Governance Instrument

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It's About Communities….

Local Governance

Every community must be served by a governmental public health entity (typically the local health department, board of health, or office of the state health department) working in partnership with the community to assure the development and maintenance of a flexible and dynamic community system that delivers services essential to the protection and promotion of the public's health.

Local Governance

Members of boards of health or other governing bodies need to:

- ◆ fully understand legal authority, obligations and responsibilities (personal & official)

- ◆ assure the availability of adequate resources (including legal, financial, personnel, capital, equipment, and supplies) to perform essential public health services;
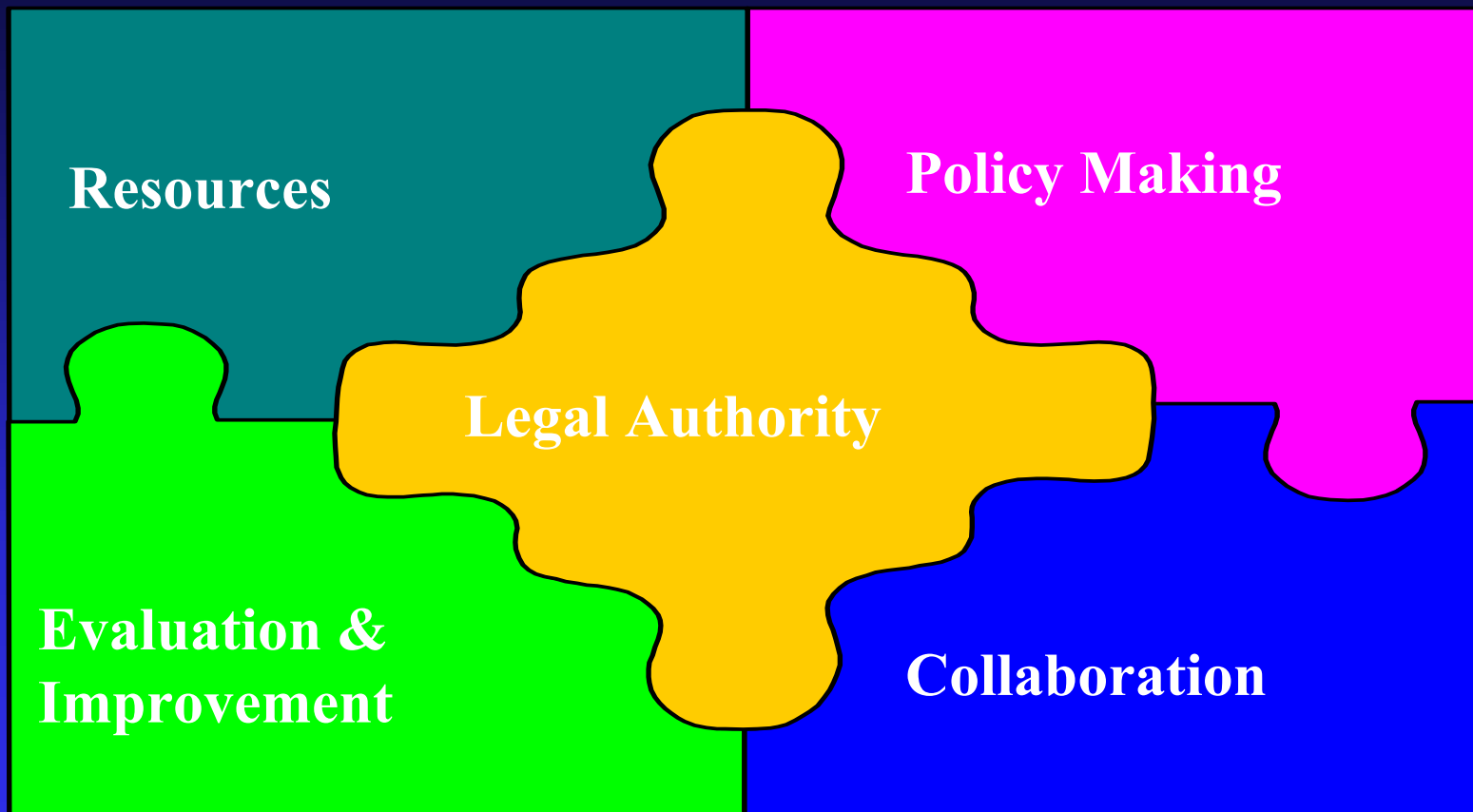
Local Governance

◆ develop policies to support public health activities and goals;

◆ routinely evaluate, monitor and set goals for improving community health status;

◆ assure collaboration of all relevant stakeholders participate in achieving public health objectives.

About Boards of Health

- Rationale
- Types
- Composition
- Activities

Rationale

- Local Boards of Health (BOH) have existed since the late 1800's

- Over three-quarters of the states have local BOH

- BOH assure community voice for public health

Types

- Most local BOH serve at the county level (46%)
- One quarter of BOH serve town or township levels (25%)
- 58% of BOH serve jurisdictions with less than 25,000
- Only 2% of jurisdictions over 500,000 have local boards of health

Composition

- 71% appointed only
- 20% elected only
- 9% appointed and elected
- 86% have 3 year terms or more

- 68% of BOH require physicians
- 44% of BOH require consumers
- 35% of BOH require a local elected official

Activities

- Over 70% of BOH recommend, propose, adopt, and/or enforce public health regulations, policies and budgets

- Over 50% establish public health priorities, supervise/evaluate health director, and set and levy fees

Governance Assessment Purpose

■ Governance has important role in determining effectiveness of system.

■ Logic would dictate that better governance would lead to a better system.

■ Assessment allows a measurement of performance, and can identify areas in need of improvement.

■ Assessment also identifies areas of strength that can be used for "success stories."

Local Governance Instrument

- Focus on governance of local public health systems

- Developed by NALBOH officers and local board of health members

Developing Local Gov. Instrument

■ Began in 1998

■ Periodic committee meetings throughout development

■ Pilot Tested by boards of health in:

Barberton, OH	Wood County, OH
Stark County, OH	Marquette County, MI
Mason County, IL	Chatham County, NC
Jefferson County, CO	Wellesley, MA

Local Governance Instrument

- Based on the 10 Essential Services.

- Used in the Context of the Central Goals of Healthy People 2010:

  - Increase Quality and years of healthy life.

  - Eliminate Health Disparities.

Ten Essential Services of Public Health

- Monitor health status
- Diagnose and investigate
- Inform and educate
- Mobilize communities to identify health problems
- Develop policies and plans

- Enforce laws and regulations
- Link people to needed health services
- Assure a competent health care workforce
- Evaluate health services
- Conduct research

Instrument Structure

- Essential Public Health Services

- Indicators

- Model Standards
  - A benchmark for high or superior performance and capacity

- Assessment Questions or Measures

- Quartile response Options

Instrument Structure

- ES #1: Monitor health status to identify community health problems
- Indicator: Oversight to Assure Community Health Status Monitoring
- Standard: Improving the quality of community health status monitoring depends in part on the degree of active support, guidance, and participation by the board of health or other governing body in the monitoring process…

Essential Service # 1 — Monitor Health Status to Identify Community Health Problems

This service includes:

- Accurate, periodic assessment of the community's health status, including:
    - Identification of health risks (determinants of health) and determination of health service needs;
    - Attention to the vital statistics and health status indicators of groups that are at higher risk than the total population; and
    - Identification of community assets that support the LPHS in promoting health and improving quality of life.

- Utilization of appropriate methods and technology, such as geographic information systems (GIS), to interpret and communicate data to diverse audiences.

- Collaboration among all LPHS components, including private providers and health benefit plans, to establish and use population health registries, such as disease or immunization registries.

Indicator G1 — Oversight to Assure Community Health Status Monitoring

Governance Model Standard:

Improving the quality of community health status monitoring depends in part on the degree of active support, guidance, and participation by the board of health or other governing body in the monitoring process.

To accomplish this, the board of health or other governing body assures:

- Appropriate resources (financial, personnel, and technical), guidance, and oversight for community health status monitoring;

- Promotion of broad-based participation and coordination among all entities active in collecting, analyzing, and disseminating community health status data;

- Development, implementation, and review of policies designed to facilitate the monitoring of community health status and progress towards meeting locally established health priorities; and

- A process of continuous evaluation and improvement of public health monitoring efforts.

GOVERNANCE
Local Public Health Governance Performance Assessment Instrument

Measures →

Please answer the following questions related to Essential Service #1:

G1.1: Does the board of health or other governing body periodically identify the individuals, agencies, or organizations active in community health status monitoring?   YES HIGH PARTIALLY LOW PARTIALLY NO

G1.2: Does the board of health or other governing body periodically determine resources necessary for community health status monitoring?   YES HIGH PARTIALLY LOW PARTIALLY NO

If so, does the board of health or other governing body assure availability of adequate resources, including:

G1.2.1: Financial resources?   YES HIGH PARTIALLY LOW PARTIALLY NO
G1.2.2: Personnel resources and expertise?   YES HIGH PARTIALLY LOW PARTIALLY NO
G1.2.3: Technological resources?   YES HIGH PARTIALLY LOW PARTIALLY NO

G1.3: Does the board of health or other governing body routinely provide oversight of health status monitoring activities?   YES HIGH PARTIALLY LOW PARTIALLY NO

G1.4: Does the board of health or other governing body promote broad-based participation among those active in collecting, analyzing, and disseminating community health status data?   YES HIGH PARTIALLY LOW PARTIALLY NO

If so, does the board of health or other governing body:

G1.4.1: Assure coordination among those individuals, agencies, or organizations that are engaged in these activities?   YES HIGH PARTIALLY LOW PARTIALLY NO

G1.5: Does the board of health or other governing body assure the development, implementation, and/or review* of policies that identify data needed for effective health status monitoring?   YES HIGH PARTIALLY LOW PARTIALLY NO

If so, does the board of health or other governing body:

G1.5.1: Facilitate access to those data?   YES HIGH PARTIALLY LOW PARTIALLY NO
G1.5.2: Facilitate the maintenance of population-based health registries?   YES HIGH PARTIALLY LOW PARTIALLY NO

G1.6: Does the board of health or other governing body periodically assure the development, implementation, and/or review* of policies that designate appropriate uses for health data?   YES HIGH PARTIALLY LOW PARTIALLY NO

If so, does the board of health or other governing body assure that:

G1.6.1: Policies are established to guide data sharing among entities that supply public health services to the community?   YES HIGH PARTIALLY LOW PARTIALLY NO
G1.6.2: Policies are established to guide data sharing between community and external entities?   YES HIGH PARTIALLY LOW PARTIALLY NO

* "and/or" is used in a measure so that if the board of health or other governing body feels it does only one or two of the three actions being measured it may still proceed to answer the sub-measures, taking in to account the appropriate 1/3rd or 2/3rds reduction as it scores its responses. For example, if the board estimates high partial (51-75%) on 2 out of the three policy actions being assured (development, implementation, review) it would have to adjust its score to a low partial (26 –51%) to properly account for all three activities being measured.

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User Benefits

- validation of role of Board members
- awareness of Board's range of responsibility
- awareness of other potential resources/partners
- awareness of gaps in service delivery
- awareness of need to do strategic planning and evaluation
- tool for advocacy

User Benefits

Acknowledgement of barriers to effectiveness of Board:

- ◆ lack of adequate resources
- ◆ lack of full public appreciation of importance of local public health
- ◆ limitations of public health infrastructure
- ◆ limitations of appointed boards

User Benefits

Strengths identified by Board:

- good relationship with Health Director
- good knowledge of community
- excellent enforcement of regulations (E.S. #6)

Weaknesses identified by Board:

- lack of strategic planning
- lack of written protocols/policies
- limited capacity/opportunity to advocate

Infrastructure

Infrastructure

Tips on Assessment

- Know that process will take time, but results will be worth the effort
- Utilize the instrument in a constructive self-improving manner
- Include health officer/commissioner

Tips on Assessment

Several methods of completing instrument:

- ◆ Completing one essential service per board meeting
- ◆ Allow 1 hour before or after regular meeting
- ◆ Special meetings
- ◆ Having "retreat" and completing entire instrument at one time

Tips on Assessment

- Have adequate facilities

- Consider food/beverage concerns

- Comfortable chairs

- Adequate copies of instrument, notepads, and writing instruments

- Flip charts, chalk board, or marker board may be helpful

Tips on Assessment

- Have knowledgeable facilitator to keep assessment on track
  - Alternatively select facilitator from board or HD staff
- Build consensus through discussion in group when answering
- Don't rush, but be willing to choose an answer at some point
- If sticking point, come back to indicator later

Who can help?

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